

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of identifying a candidate PTEN pathway modulating agent, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a first assay system capable of detecting the expression of RAN Binding Protein 2 (RANBP2) comprising ~~any of~~ SEQ ID NOs NO. 1[[[-6]];
 - (b) contacting the first assay system with a test agent;
 - (c) determining the expression of ~~any of~~ SEQ ID NOs NO. 1[[[-6]] in the first assay system, wherein a change in said RANBP2 expression between the presence or absence of the test agent identifies the test agent as a candidate PTEN pathway modulating agent;
 - (d) providing a second assay system capable of detecting a change in the PTEN pathway comprising cultured cells expressing ~~any of~~ SEQ ID NOs 1[[[-6]],
 - (e) contacting the second assay system with the test agent of (b); and
 - (f) determining a change in the PTEN pathway in the second assay system, wherein a change in the PTEN pathway between the presence or absence of the test agent confirms the test agent as a candidate PTEN pathway modulating agent.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first assay system comprises cultured cells that express the RANBP2 polypeptide.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the cultured cells additionally have defective PTEN protein function.
4. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the assay system includes a screening assay comprising a RANBP2 polypeptide, and the candidate test agent is a small molecule modulator.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4 wherein the assay is a binding assay.
6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second assay system is selected from the group consisting of an apoptosis assay system, a cell proliferation assay system, an angiogenesis assay system, and a hypoxic induction assay system.
7. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the assay system includes a binding assay comprising a RANBP2 polypeptide and the candidate test agent is an antibody.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the candidate test agent is a nucleic acid modulator.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid modulator is an antisense oligomer.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid modulator is a phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomer (PMO).
11. -25. (Canceled)